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SUPPLEMENT

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1. A purge of the school system in Poland was instituted after the appointment of Skrzyszewski, member of the Central Committee of PPR, to the post of Minister of Education in February 1947.
2. First to be affected was the schools administration. Headmasters, directors of high schools and school inspectors who were members of PSL or non-party men, were dismissed regardless of their qualifications or past services, and replaced by members of PPR.
3. It is expected that the PPR will endeavour to improve the status of teachers in general, but that in return, it will exact the most active and willing collaboration, and any who fail to follow the political lines laid down by the party, will be dismissed.
4. Considerable attention is being paid to professional and technical training in order to provide new cadres of technicians and craftsmen. The Ministry of Industry and Trade maintain 161 supplementary schools in all branches of industry, 175 supplementary high schools, 13 lyceum and 2 technicum schools.
5. It is believed that the 3-year State Plan for professional schools will be carried out to the extent of about 50%. The campaign for building schools has made some progress.

Note: This campaign was given great publicity in Upper Silesia, where the position is serious, as, although this region suffered less damage during war operations than other parts of the country, 45 school buildings have been requisitioned by various government offices and institutions. Over 1,500 more classrooms are needed, and there are still 20,000 children not attending any schools for lack of accommodation. There is also a serious shortage of teachers.

6. Considerable influence is already being exerted in the matriculation examinations by PPR "activists", appointed to ascertain whether the instruction of the students follows the directives laid down by the PPR. The representative of such a "social commission" can decide against any student, however good he may be in his studies, by grading him as "not sufficiently prepared for social life and failing to manifest understanding of the new realities of a People's Poland."

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7. Chairmen of examining commissions were given specific instructions on the subjects and the manner in which students were to be questioned concerning their knowledge of contemporary Poland. The subjects included such items as the whereabouts of Polish gold, the part played by the Kosciuszko Division, the role of the Red Army as liberator of nations, the lives of Gomolka, Bierut, General Zawadzki, or other PPR personalities (according to locality where examinations were held), and the like.
8. As a result, normal teaching was often neglected in favour of politics, and instructors devoted themselves instead to circulating PPR pamphlets among their pupils, extolling the USSR and teaching the children to sing Russian revolutionary songs.

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